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THE INFLUENCE OF GEOGRAPHIC FACTORS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MINNESOTA¹

Geography and history are two branches of knowledge that are very closely related. Whether recording the history of to-day or that of some past epoch, the historian writes most accurately when he has in mind, as his background, the geographic conditions of the times of which he writes. The geographer, in turn, must study the pages of history if he wishes to comprehend fully the geographic conditions of any period, the present not excepted. Some one has tersely defined history as geography set in motion, meaning thereby that the geography of to-day becomes the history of to-morrow, a definition that geographers can accept; to speak of its acceptance by historians would be presumption on my part.

In considering the influence of geography in the settlement and development of Minnesota a brief statement of the factors involved will be of advantage, since it will indicate the general lines along which the discussion will proceed. Among geographers it is generally conceded that a study of the geography of a region embraces a discussion of the climate, the topography and relief, the question of glaciation, the hydrography, the mineral resources, the flora, the fauna, the soils, the position with reference to lines of commerce and accessibility, and, finally, the people themselves. It is purposed to show briefly and, therefore, rather generally, some of the ways in which each of these factors has played a part in the development of the state.

Without doubt climate is one of the most fundamental of the geographic factors of a region. It may be such as to make

¹ An address read at the stated meeting of the executive council of the Minnesota Historical Society, April 8, 1918.

development practically out of the question, as is the case in lands where low temperatures prevail throughout the year, or where extreme drought is perennial; on the other hand, where the climate is favorable, some of its influences are often so subtle as to preclude their exact statement; sometimes, moreover, a given phase may be from one viewpoint decidedly favorable, and from another quite as unfavorable.

It is not at all beside the mark to say that it was the climate of Minnesota and of the states to the east that brought the French explorers here so early. In the first place, the rainfall was sufficient to fill the many lake basins, formed as the result of geologically recent glaciation, so that it was possible to travel long distances by canoe. Then, the abundance of lakes, the presence of large forest and prairie tracts, and the long, cold winters, all served to furnish an ideal habitat for animals bearing furs of the highest quality. It was for furs that Radisson and Groseilliers first came into this region; on their return from their second trip, in 1660, they are said to have reached Montreal "in sixty canoes loaded with furs worth \$40,000." From that time on until 1850 furs were the leading product of the region that later became Minnesota; and the fur trade, it should be stated, occupied a leading place here for a much longer time than any other single industry.

The climate of Minnesota, by defining the length of the crop-growing season, together with the average summer temperatures, plays also an important part in determining what crops may be raised. In the early days the impression seems to have been abroad in the older states to the southeast that the summers in Minnesota were so short that in most of the years the staple crops would not mature. One can not help but notice how in the early numbers of the *Minnesota Pioneer* Editor Goodhue apparently went out of his way to show that the growing season is long enough for the maturing of crops in this state as well as in those farther south, and in California, which was at that time much in the public eye.

Within my own recollection Minnesota was hardly considered a corn-growing state; its right to be classed as an apple-producing state may scarcely be said to be proved as yet; and no one claims for it any consideration as a place suitable for the cultivation of peaches and pears. The data collected by the United States weather bureau at Minneapolis show that, on the basis of the average date of the last killing frost in the spring to the earliest killing frost in the autumn, the longest growing season for Minnesota, a period of one hundred and sixty days, is found in the southeastern part along the Mississippi. The shortest season, found near the Lake of the Woods and in the northeastern part of the state, is just short of one hundred days. For most seasons one hundred days is too short for the maturing of corn. In these two facts we have an exact statement of the reason why that crop is confined to the southern part of the state. Though the growing season is too short in some parts of the state for the maturing of corn, it is, nevertheless, of such character that it produces a harder wheat and one that is richer in gluten than the varieties grown in most sections of the country. This same wheat has revolutionized the flour-milling industry and has been largely responsible for making the name "Minneapolis" familiar to millions of housewives the world over.

Stories of Minnesota's long and severe winters probably kept many an immigrant from coming to the state; but that result had its compensations, since only the most hardy ventured within its borders. The character of the winters kept the early settlers within or along the margin of the timbered areas because these were the source of the fuel supply. By the time the frontier had reached Minnesota, the value and fertility of the prairies and oak openings were thoroughly understood, and the problem of breaking the tough prairie sod had been solved, things which were unknown to the pioneers of Ohio and of southern Indiana and Illinois. In this state, therefore, the prairies were the first lands to be brought under cultivation; with less prairie land the agricultural development

of the state would probably have been less rapid. The climate, however, was partly responsible for the existence of the prairies as well as for the conditions that tended to keep the early settlers near their periphery.

There are still other ways in which climate has played an important part in the development of the state, its influence being, in some respects, direct and unfavorable in character, in others beneficial; but as most of these can better be discussed under other headings they will not be taken up at this point. One other characteristic, however, should be mentioned here. I refer to the great differences between summer and winter temperatures, and to the sudden changes not infrequently experienced within a period of twenty-four or thirty-six hours. The immigration of the virile people of northern Europe to Minnesota was in part due to its climate, since it is somewhat similar to theirs. Moreover, the climate tends to keep the inhabitants of a similar type. The tang of our cold winter days induces energy and vim, and the heat of summer is neither great enough nor of long enough duration to be especially enervating. Indeed, on the whole, its climate is one of Minnesota's most valuable geographic assets.

The character of the surface of the land, whether it is rough or generally level, is a primary geographic factor. Particularly is this true in Minnesota, where the surface is so typical of its mode of origin and where the reactions to the surface conditions have been so characteristic. No one now questions the fact of the recent glaciation of the state. Before the coming of the glacier this region would probably have passed as a level country, but of greater relief than it now has. More significant is the fact that at that time the drainage lines were well established, and lakes and swamp areas were probably reduced to a minimum. How many major drainage lines there were and what courses they took is not altogether clear. The soils were largely alluvial and residual, and showed a zonal arrangement as an expression of the arrangement of the underlying rock. The glaciers, however, changed all this.

The well-established drainage lines were entirely obliterated in many cases, and in others much altered. While no major relief features were developed, the surface was left pitted with numerous depressions, many of which are now the sites of lakes or of swamps. In many places the drainage lines have not yet become well established, and as a result the *voyageur* found passage from one river system to another a relatively easy matter, since it usually required only a short portage; hence, his early acquaintance with our state.

A glacier modifies greatly the character of the soil. It mixes heterogeneously the fine and the coarse, the alluvial and the residual soils, and the rock flour which it has made in its movements. Where limestone has been the underlying rock, the limey nature of the flour has tended to "sweeten" other residual clays that might otherwise be acid and not so productive. Again this very heterogeneity is an asset. Studies of statistics show that glaciated regions generally have better soils, and are more productive than adjacent nonglaciated ones, and that they are, therefore, more valuable from the agricultural standpoint.

We must not lose sight of the fact, on the other hand, that in its erosional and depositional effects a glacier may work harm. There were many places where the country was pretty well stripped of its soil, and because the time which has elapsed since the passing of the glacier has been far too short for the formation of a sufficient depth of residual soil, such sections are unfit for agriculture and must remain so indefinitely. In most cases, however, they will maintain a good forest covering, and that is the best use to which they can be put. Such lands are found principally in the north and northeastern parts of the state.

Too much glacial deposition may at times be harmful also. It is not likely that the glacier destroyed a relatively large amount of mineral deposits. What it probably did do, however, was to cover up and conceal deposits that might be very valuable were they known to exist. Their discovery may be

merely a matter of time. Again, the thick deposits of till overlying the iron ore in some of the mines are not sufficiently indurated to permit of shaft mining and must be stripped, an operation which involves considerable expense. In this respect glaciation is a liability.

During the time of the retreat of the edge of the glacier marginal lakes were formed; these have subsequently been more or less completely drained. One of them deserves special mention, since the former lake bottom now furnishes one of the most characteristic physiographic features of the continent as well as some of the best wheat lands. I refer to Glacial Lake Agassiz, which at its greatest height covered a large area in the northwestern part of the state. The deposits laid down in the bottom of the shallow lake are now the fertile, level plains for which the Red River Valley is so justly famous.

In still another way glaciation has affected the development of Minnesota profoundly. It is axiomatic to say that all plant life of the area overridden by the glacier was destroyed. There was of course a southward migration of the various species in advance of the on-coming ice. As the ice edge retreated, there was a return migration of the plants in accordance with the changed climatic conditions. But as all species do not migrate with equal rapidity, we have the interesting phenomenon of some returning—shall we say to the old haunts?—ahead of others that were their preglacial fellows. Botanists tell us that some varieties of trees, as, for example, several members of the hickory family, have not yet returned so far north as present climatic conditions would warrant. Large forest areas of trees of the same variety are, for this reason, found here. In lands where there has been no such forced migration the forests are much mixed, and, as a result, lumbering is more difficult and less profitable. So far as ease of lumbering is concerned, the virgin pine forests of Minnesota have had no superiors and few equals the world over. Shortly after the Chippewa Indians ceded part of their lands east of the Mississippi to the government in 1837, the

lumber industry became important. It soon rivaled the fur trade and later became the leading industry of the state, a position which it held until it was displaced by agriculture in the sixties. The highest point of the lumber output was not reached until 1905, when about two billion feet were produced. The industry will never again attain the proportions which it had in the year just mentioned; but, on the other hand, it will never die out. When the people realize that there are some thousands of square miles of nonagricultural lands which are best suited to forests, and when they demand a policy of scientific afforestation, a substantial increase in the lumber business may be looked for, and, moreover, it will then become as stable an industry as agriculture.

With reference to animal life, attention has already been called to the fur-bearing animals found here as a reaction to the climatic conditions. The climate performs a further service to the inhabitants of this region in that it inhibits the presence of the malaria- and yellow-fever-carrying mosquitoes.

Minnesota is fortunate, indeed, in that three great river systems of the continent, the Mississippi, the Nelson-Red, and the St. Lawrence, have their sources within its borders. When navigation was the chief method of transport, these streams afforded easy access from three different directions. It is significant that the first two authentic exploring expeditions within the present borders of the state entered by two of these waterways, that of Duluth by the St. Lawrence and that of Hennepin by the Mississippi, and that these men should actually have met in the vicinity of Mille Lacs in 1680. Later, when it came to the matter of establishing posts and permanent settlements, entrance was made by all three of these river systems. Aside from the soldiery and the employees of the fur companies, the first white settlers came by way of the Red River, but by 1850 the larger number of immigrants were arriving by way of the Mississippi, which, from that time until the railroads were built, continued to be the principal route of

immigration. It was not until considerably after 1850 that the Lake Superior route had contributed more immigrants than that by way of the Red River.

The falls and rapids of the streams have played an important part in the development of the state, since they determine the places of portages, in some instances the head of navigation, and, later, because of the water power, the location of urban centers. Of the latter two examples may be mentioned. A short distance below the falls of the St. Croix the first settlement of Americans within the state was made in 1838, and soon there grew up along the river a number of settlements, the largest of which was Stillwater. In 1849 these were outnumbered in population only by the settlements clustered about St. Paul. Again, the Falls of St. Anthony determined the sites of both St. Paul and Minneapolis, the former at the point to which boats could conveniently ascend, and the latter at the power site itself. It is now known that within another mile of recession the Falls of St. Anthony would have disappeared, and had this taken place before the white man came upon the scene it is quite likely that the metropolis of the state would not be found in its present location. That the early settlers appreciated the value of the then-undeveloped power sites is shown by the fact that within the shortest possible time after the tidings of the conclusion of the Indian treaties ceding the triangular strip of land between the Mississippi and the St. Croix rivers to the government reached the territory, claims abutting the falls of the St. Croix were staked out. A little later claims on the east bank of the Mississippi at St. Anthony Falls were taken up. While the amount of available water power of Minnesota streams suffers in comparison with that of most of our mountainous states, yet its character is of the most satisfactory sort, since the streams are generally less subject to fluctuations in flow. The many lakes and swamps prevent heavy floods in the streams, and, as a result, less heavy dams are necessary; furthermore, the consequent greater regularity of flow means less idleness of water

turbines because of low water. Owing to the lack of coal mines within the state industries have been more or less handicapped by the cost of generating steam power. What this handicap has meant is well shown by a comparison of the development of the manufacturing industries of Minneapolis and St. Paul, the latter city depending on power from coal, the former using a fair percentage of water power. In 1914 the output of manufactured products in Minneapolis was valued at \$187,000,000; in St. Paul, at \$68,000,000. What is particularly noteworthy is that at the beginning Minneapolis derived virtually all of its power from the falls, and this gave it such an initial advantage over St. Paul that the latter never has succeeded in overcoming the handicap thus imposed. This single illustration may serve to show the great desirability of utilizing many of the remaining water-power resources of the state.

No one conversant with the subject will deny the importance of accessibility, the ease of communication and transportation, in the settlement and development of a region. A consideration of this topic as applied to Minnesota shows several geographic factors, each exerting influences of major importance. Reference has already been made to the lakes and streams as highways of communication. Upon them in summer rode the canoes, pirogues, flatboats, keel boats, and, in later years, steamboats; in winter, in the early days, the frozen streams frequently furnished the roadway upon which the hardy traveler made his way from place to place. Before the coming of the telegraph St. Paul and points above had little communication with the outside world while the navigation of the river was closed by the severe winter weather. It is said that navigation on the Mississippi was "not to be relied upon after the first week in November; and steamboats arrived in the spring about the 10th or 12th of April." The following quotation, taken from the *Minnesota Pioneer* of April 28, 1849, illustrates the point: "During five months the communication between this part of the country and our brethren in the

United States has been difficult and unfrequent. A mail now and then from *Prairie du Chien*, brought up on the ice in a 'train' drawn sometimes by horses and sometimes by dogs, containing news so old that the good people in the country below had forgotten all about it. . . . When the milder weather commenced, and the ice became unsafe, we were completely shut out from all communication for several weeks." To the extent that these conditions were known to the people in the older states, they undoubtedly acted as a deterrent to prospective immigrants.

The influence of the forests and prairies upon the lines of communication was characteristic. Usually the trails kept to the prairie stretches as much as possible, for the traders had not the time, nor were they disposed to expend the means, necessary to construct roads through a wooded country. This often resulted in the sacrifice of directness of route. Of the three routes from St. Paul to the Pembina settlement, two, the southern and the middle, clung to the open prairie practically all the way. It is not too much of a digression here to suggest that the peculiar type of vehicle known as the Red River cart is an expression of the level prairie region of the old Lake Agassiz bed. A cart built along similar lines has evolved in the level pampas of Argentina.

The generally low relief of the state proved a valuable asset when the time of railroad building came. Construction was relatively inexpensive so far as the grading of the right of way was concerned. In addition the neighboring forests furnished ties and the best of structural timber at a low cost. It was under such conditions that, for the first time, railroads were pushed on in advance of settlement.

It is generally understood that for a city to be situated on lines of commerce, or for such lines to run through a country, is a particularly valuable asset. Minnesota is most fortunate in this respect, for in it is located one of the principal cross-roads of the continent. The Twin Cities are at the focus of routes between the undeveloped empire to the north and west

and the states to the east of the southern end of Lake Michigan. Since it is at the head of steamboat navigation of the Mississippi, St. Paul early became an important distributing center for this great northwestern country, and that distinction it still holds. When the upper lakes navigation became important through the digging and subsequent deepening of the Sault Ste. Marie canal, Duluth similarly became the *entrepôt* for the northern part of the state. This section did not develop to any great extent, it may be remarked, until the shipment of ore from the Vermilion Range began in 1884.

While it may seem a little far-fetched, principally because one does not think of it in that way, there is no doubt that architectural styles have been modified in some respects by the geographic conditions that obtain in the region. In the larger prairie sections there was a time when houses were built of sod, since lumber was not readily available. Besides, houses so constructed were cheap and made a pretty fair type of winter residence. As railroads came in and lumber became everywhere available, the frame building became prevalent. Only as lumber has become scarcer in the last decade has there been any general use of other building material for houses. The abundant clays in the state supply a fine quality of brick, and the rigor of the winters necessitates a "tighter" house than is found in most parts of the country.

A discussion of this sort would not be complete without some mention of the high type of citizens in the commonwealth. One can not read the early history of the state without being struck by the high-mindedness of its pioneers. The establishment of this historical society is ample proof of the point. These pioneers had an abiding faith in the great future of the state they were shaping. Many of the things they hoped for have been realized, but there remains much to be done, including newer things they thought not of; and we shall do well if we "carry on" in the abiding faith that is our heritage.

CHESSLEY J. POSEY

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

Minnesota, the Star of the North. By MARY VANCE CARNEY, Central High School, St. Paul. (Boston, etc., D. C. Heath and Company, 1918. xvii, 249 p. Illustrated)

Of the several recent attempts to satisfy the need for a good school history of Minnesota, this seems to be the most successful. In the organization of the material, always a difficult problem in a work of this sort, the author has chosen a happy combination of chronological and topical arrangements which avoids the annalistic effect and at the same time gives an impression of development. The first two chapters furnish the background for the history of the state in accounts of its geography and Indian inhabitants. The explorations and territorial transitions of the French and British periods are then treated, followed by chapters on the fur trade, American explorations, and missionary activities. An account of the beginnings of American occupation and settlement is followed by a chapter on pioneer days which portrays early social and economic conditions. The narrative is resumed with the story of the establishment and political history of Minnesota Territory and of the transition to statehood. Two chapters are devoted to "Minnesota in the Civil War" and "The Sioux War of 1862." In the remainder of the book the topical arrangement predominates with the emphasis on economic history; and space is found for only a single brief chapter on the "Political History of the State."

The author has, as a rule, selected the most significant topics for treatment, put the emphasis in the right places, and apportioned the space judiciously, although a somewhat fuller treatment of the period since the Civil War would have been an improvement. There is also recognition of the fact that Minnesota's history is but a part of and inseparable from the history of the nation; and in the preface the author suggests that "its study should be correlated with the general course in American history, or should immediately follow it." Most important of

all, however, is the general accuracy of the work, both in interpretation and in matters of detail. While only occasional footnote references are given, it is evident that the writer has consulted most of the available material and has used it with discrimination. A few inaccuracies have crept in, however, principally as a result of attempts to condense a long story into a few words. For example, the impression is given that the Whig amendment to the bill for the establishment of the territory became part of the law (page 142), whereas the real explanation of the Whig appointments was the passage of the measure on the last day of the Polk administration.

The style is simple but spirited, and while not beyond the easy comprehension of students in the upper grades, the book could be used with profit in high school work and by mature readers who want a bird's-eye view of the history of Minnesota. Several maps and numerous illustrations "reproduced from photographs, or from sketches made by eye-witnesses," add to the attractiveness and usefulness of the work. The appendix contains a list of the governors, a table of important dates, a brief bibliography, questions and suggestions upon each chapter, and some valuable suggestions for supplementary work in the history of the local community in which the book may be used. With so satisfactory a textbook available, it is to be hoped that in the future more attention will be paid to Minnesota history in the schools than has been the case in the past.

SOLON J. BUCK

A Study of State Aid to Public Schools in Minnesota (The University of Minnesota, *Studies in the Social Sciences*, no. 11). By RAYMOND ASA KENT, PH.D., sometime assistant professor of education in the University of Minnesota. (Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota, 1918. ix, 183 p.)

In April, 1913, the Minnesota Legislature created a Public Education Commission to make an investigation of the public school system and public educational institutions of the state with the general purpose of effecting "economy and efficiency with respect to the several branches of public education." Dr.

Kent, who was secretary to the commission, has made use of the data collected to produce this monograph, which presents a more elaborate study than the formal report of the commission to the legislature.

Chapter 1 opens with a discussion of the problem confronting the commission: how state aid to separate groups of schools and to special departments of work has affected such schools or departments and their educational efficiency. A critical examination of the data collected, together with a statement of the method of the study, which, as the author says, is largely statistical, follows. Chapter 2 is an "Historical Summary of Legislation Affecting State Aid," in which it is shown that Minnesota has provided for educational purposes (1) general aid in the form of the current school fund, (2) high school aid, (3) graded school aid, (4) rural school aid, and (5) industrial aid. The statutes which are pertinent are quoted or summarized, and tables showing state expenditures under the various acts throughout the period covered are given. Chapters 3, 4, and 5 contain respectively a consideration of special aid to high schools, graded schools, and rural schools; in each case tables and text bring out such features as the size of corporate units, the attendance per pupil, the cost per pupil per day, the aid per pupil per day, the local school tax, and the percentage of state aid; and a comparative study of these statistics forms the content of chapter 6. Chapter 7 is devoted to special aid to industrial departments. The conclusions drawn from the study are stated in chapter 8. The high school board rules, the school laws passed by the legislature in 1915, and additional tables are contained in appendices.

The study as a whole is a valuable contribution; it will aid materially not alone in creating a better understanding of certain educational factors in Minnesota but in affording general enlightenment in a field where practically no investigational work has been done before. Perhaps one of the most striking conclusions of the author, certainly one on which great emphasis is placed, relates to the effect of state aid upon rural schools. While on the whole good results have come from state aid to high and graded schools, rural schools and the communities in which they are located have suffered as a result of such assis-

tance. "By encouraging the maintenance of the dwarf rural school," says Dr. Kent, "by having attached to its bestowal no conditions regarding enrollment, local taxation, local assessed valuation, and with extremely imperfect possibilities of checking whether the conditions presumed to be met have been met, state aid as it is at present distributed to the rural schools of Minnesota acts positively as a barrier to the advancement of the best interests of these schools and their patrons. It is educationally pauperizing the rural schools of the state." The danger in connection with aid given to special industrial departments lies in the lack of a definite aim and of "adequate standardization in its distribution."

The work is calculated to interest those who are trained in educational technology and in problems of school administration; hence it will make but small appeal to the layman unless he is willing to struggle through many tables that are not always explained in the clearest manner by the text. The style is marred by awkward expressions and frequently by unnecessarily involved sentences. One or two slips in proof reading, as, for example, "62 per cent" for "82 per cent" (p. 94), make it necessary for the reader to perform arithmetical calculations in order to correct erroneous statements. The valuable and illuminating graphs would be more usable were one set of symbols selected and strictly adhered to in all those where the same elements are under comparison. An analytical table of contents partly but not wholly makes up for the absence of an index, and the bibliography at the end would be more valuable had the author added a word or two of comment, especially in the case of the secondary works cited.

LESTER BURRELL SHIPPEE

History of Clay and Norman Counties, Minnesota; Their People, Industries, and Institutions. JOHN TURNER and C. K. SEMLING, joint editors. In two volumes. (Indianapolis, B. F. Bowen and Company, 1918. 543, 915 p. Illustrated)

This work follows the plan upon which all recent Bowen histories of Minnesota counties are based and for the most part exhibits the merits and defects which have been noted in

these pages in reviews of Bowen and other commercial histories.¹ The first volume opens with a general introduction and a chapter on "Related State History"; this material is followed by a separate history of each county in the form of historical narratives, reminiscent accounts, extracts from official records, and statistical matter somewhat roughly divided and loosely bound together under such familiar topics as "Organization and County Government," "Agricultural Interests," "Bench and Bar," and "Military History." The second volume is devoted to biographical sketches, for the correctness of which in each case "the party interested" may be held responsible.

Clay and Norman counties are situated in the valley of the Red River of the North, a region famous in early days as a part of the fur trader's domain and as lying in the line of travel and commerce between points along the American frontier and settlements in far-off Canada, and equally well known in later years as a land of surpassing fertility. Unfortunately for the interest and distinctiveness of the *History of Clay and Norman Counties* the greater part of the detailed information given applies to the more prosaic period of some fifty years during which this region has been settled and developed, while the stirring events and activities of the earlier period are covered in a few brief paragraphs. The writer of the "Introduction" deplors this meagreness of treatment and ascribes it to the want of records and other sources of information. However justifiable this plea may be, there is some indication that full use has not been made of sources generally known to be available. For example, the structure of the famous Red River cart is indicated as follows: "Certain it is that the Red river wooden-wheeled carts passed over the trail that was still visible a few years since **through these two counties**—Clay and Norman. The writer has seen in the historic museum at New Ulm, Minnesota, one of those old rudely, yet strongly fashioned wooden-wheeled carts. . . . The wheels are made from a single cut from off the end of a large tree. They measure thirty inches in diameter and are bound heavily by wrought iron bands, and are attached to a heavy wooden axle by means of a linch-pin." Whatever use may have been made in its day of the cart preserved at New Ulm,

¹ See *ante*, 1: 378-386, 528; 2: 36-41, 85, 184.

it is certainly not one of those vehicles generally known as the Red River carts, as readily available descriptions and photographs of the latter will show. In fact, the genuine Red River cart may be recognized in a description of so-called Indian carts on page 261 of the same volume.

On the other hand, it is readily acknowledged that a great deal of useful information has been gotten together and made available through the medium of this work. The historical volume is unusually rich in the character and quality of some of its reminiscent accounts. Alvide Anderson, one of the woman pioneers of Clay County, recalls facts about pioneer days many of which are of the sort that too often go unrecorded as being too commonplace or trivial to be regarded as "history." The experience of A. O. Serum, a pioneer of Norman County, is frequently used to advantage. But most notable of all is an autobiographical sketch written by C. K. Semling, one of the editors of the present work. In this unusually interesting narrative Mr. Semling succeeds admirably in drawing, as he intended, "the picture . . . of an average immigrant family of peasant folk, and the attempts of the members of this family to adjust themselves to the new conditions in this our land of freedom and opportunity, and to 'get on,' as you may say." Beginning as it does with the life of the family in Norway before its emigration to America and following its history from the period of its establishment in its new home in Houston County, Minnesota, to the time when three of the sons removed to the Red River Valley, the account is worthy the attention of all students of the settlement of Minnesota. Special attention may here be called to the motive which led to the coming of this family to our land as suggested in the following excerpt from Mr. Semling's tribute to his parents: "Loaded down with the struggle of life in Norway, they embraced the momentous task of emigrating to America with eight children. . . . Had they sought their own convenience; had they chosen to follow the lines of least resistance, they would have remained in Norway. They undoubtedly had in mind securing easier conditions for their children than had been their own lot."

The publishers of this work have apparently entered upon the performance of a new and very important historical service in

gathering and publishing as a part of their "Military History" available information relating to the part played by men from these communities and by the communities themselves in the prosecution of the present war. Too much emphasis can not be placed upon the future historical importance of such material; and it is to be hoped not only that a larger amount of similar data will be embodied in forthcoming county histories but also that the clothing of this information, which is at the moment a matter of more or less common knowledge, in the garb of history will serve to suggest to people generally the wisdom of collecting local historical materials relative to the war at the time of their happening, and of carefully preserving them in order that the completed record may do the several communities due justice.

FRANKLIN F. HOLBROOK

The Taming of the Sioux. By FRANK FISKE. (Bismarck, North Dakota, Bismarck Tribune, 1917. 186 p. Illustrated)

This is an entertaining and instructive little book, giving a review of the history and transition of the Dakota or Sioux people "from a wild and warlike tribe to the present day Redman who loves peace and knows how to vote." The author is a young man whose home is at the old Fort Yates, the former Standing Rock agency, at the west side of the Missouri River in the south edge of North Dakota. He describes that post and agency for the thirty years from its founding in 1873 to its abandonment as a military post in 1903 as "the most important Sioux taming plant in the Indian country." He writes as one who knows his subject well, has sympathy with the Indians, but also sees the benefits of civilization.

Chapters or articles most nearly relating to Minnesota are entitled "The Outbreak of '62," "The Campaign of 1863," and "Other Forts and Fights," covering the period from Sully's expedition in 1864 to the building of Fort Buford, "commenced June 15th, 1866, on a high bench of table land on the Missouri, nearly opposite the mouth of the Yellowstone River."

Sixteen excellent full-page illustrations are supplied from photographs by the author; and numerous drawings are inserted at the ends of chapters, contributed by Francis Zahn (Holy Star), "a part Sioux of great talent."

WARREN UPHAM

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

The exercises for the dedication of the new building erected by the state of Minnesota for the use of the Minnesota Historical Society took place on Saturday, May 11, 1918, the sixtieth anniversary of the admission of the state to the Union. The first session was held at 3 P.M. in the main reading room of the building and was presided over by Mr. Charles P. Noyes, president of the society from 1915 to 1918 and chairman of the building committee. The state board of control, which had charge of the erection of the building, was represented by its chairman, the Honorable Ralph Wheelock, who formally turned the building over to the state. The Honorable C. G. Schulz, state superintendent of education, responded on behalf of Governor Burnquist, who was unable to be present, and formally intrusted the society with the use of the building. The trust was accepted on behalf of the society by its president, the Honorable Gideon S. Ives. Dr. Benjamin F. Shambaugh, superintendent of the State Historical Society of Iowa, spoke on behalf of sister societies, after which brief addresses were delivered by Dr. Warren Upham, archeologist of the society and its secretary from 1893 to 1914, and by Dr. Solon J. Buck, the present secretary and superintendent.

At the close of the afternoon program the entire building was thrown open for inspection and hundreds of members and friends of the society, guided by members of the staff, made the tour through the offices, workrooms, stacks, reading rooms, museum, and galleries. The delegates and invited guests were then entertained at supper in the museum. Since the reading room proved too small to accommodate the audience in the afternoon, the evening session was transferred to the House Chamber in the Capitol. Here a large audience heard the inspiring dedicatory address by Dr. Frederick J. Turner, professor of history in Harvard University. Professor Turner's subject, "Middle Western Pioneer Democracy," was both appropriate to the occasion and of special significance at this time when the nation is engaged

in a war for the avowed purpose of making the world safe for democracy.

Many historical societies outside the state and nearly all the historical, pioneer, or patriotic societies and higher educational institutions of Minnesota were represented by delegates. The exercises were open to the public, but special invitations were sent to a number of citizens and descendants of citizens who have played a prominent part in the history of Minnesota or have rendered special services to the society. Many of these invitations were accepted; and the picture of those in attendance, taken on the steps of the building, shows a notable gathering. The large attendance from outside the Twin Cities was especially gratifying.

The society expects to publish in the near future a commemorative volume containing an account of the exercises, the addresses in full, a description of the building, and other pertinent material.

The society had the privilege of taking a leading part in the entertainment of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association at its eleventh annual meeting held in St. Paul, May 9, 10, and 11, 1913. The superintendent was chairman of the committee on local arrangements and most of the members of the committee were officers or members of the society. Five of the sever sessions took place in the Historical Building, the forenoon and afternoon sessions on Friday being held at the University of Minnesota. The members of the association were guests of the society at a reception following the president's address, Thursday evening, and at the supper in connection with the dedication exercises on Saturday. The society joined with the St. Paul Association of Business and Public Affairs and the Twin City History Teachers' Club in entertaining the visitors at a luncheon on Saturday. The luncheon on Friday was tendered by members of the faculty of the University of Minnesota. Other social functions, arranged by the local committee, were an automobile ride on Thursday afternoon, followed by tea at the University Club of St. Paul, and a smoker for the men of the association at the Minnesota Club, Friday evening.

The attendance from outside Minnesota, about forty, was as large as could be expected under war-time conditions, and included several members from distant states. The visitors were enthusiastic over the new building. That they appreciated the entertainment provided is evident from the following somewhat flattering extracts from the note about the meeting in the June number of the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, published by the association: "Among those who attended . . . the sentiment seemed to be unanimous that the committee on local arrangements was deserving of the greatest praise. Everything possible was done for the comfort and entertainment of those present. . . . It may safely be said that the social functions were more numerous and better arranged than is normally the case at such meetings."

The following new members, all active, have been enrolled during the quarter ending July 31, 1918: Clarence C. Gray, G. Arvid Hagstrom, Mrs. Charles Hauser, and Dora C. Jett of St. Paul; William Anderson, Frances M. Morehouse, Mason W. Tyler, Frederick J. Wulling, and Jeremiah S. Young of Minneapolis; Edward W. Davies of Pipestone; Freeman E. Lurton and David H. Turner of Crookston; and Darius Steward of St. Cloud. The society has lost one member by death during the same period: Thomas Shaw of St. Paul, June 25.

The May number of the *Library Journal* contains an article entitled "Minnesota Historical Society Moves into New Building," by C. Edward Graves, librarian of the society. In it Mr. Graves describes in some detail the methods used in moving the library, the construction of the building, and the nature of the library collections. The frontispiece of the issue is a picture of the building. An excellent résumé of this article appears in the *Christian Science Monitor* for June 5.

The work of the manuscript department is now under the direction of Miss Ethel Virtue, formerly of the staff of the Historical Department of Iowa.

GIFTS

Mrs. Charles E. Furness of St. Paul has deposited with the society the two commissions by authority of which her father, Alexander Ramsey, served from 1849 to 1853 as governor of the newly created Minnesota Territory. These commissions, dated respectively April 2, 1849, and January 9, 1850, were issued by President Taylor; the first upon his own authority, as the Senate was not in session, and the other, which confirmed and extended the appointment "during the pleasure of the president," and by and with the consent of the Senate.

The sons and daughters of Colonel William Pfaender of New Ulm, through one of their number, Mrs. Charles Hauser of St. Paul, have presented two articles of historical interest. One is a letter written May 1, 1862, by Alexander Ramsey, governor of Minnesota, to William Pfaender, then lieutenant commanding the First Minnesota Battery, with reference to his official report to the governor on the battle of Pittsburg Landing. This letter and the *St. Paul Press* version of the Pfaender report are framed together. The other gift is a framed group of photographs of the four men who were the presidential electors of Lincoln from Minnesota in 1860: Clark W. Thompson, Stephen Miller, Charles McClure, and William Pfaender.

General C. C. Andrews has recently made some additions to the collection of his papers already possessed by the society and has presented a set of forty-two photographs of scenes in Minnesota forest and Indian reservations and a number of books, periodicals, and pamphlets.

Mr. C. R. Bishop of St. James has presented an interesting original document entitled: "Statement of Expenses incurred by James Glispin, Sheriff of Watonwan County, Minn. in keeping, boarding, clothing and furnishing medical and Surgical accomodation to the Northfield Bank robber[s] while they were in his custody as prisoners from Sept 21st to Sept 23^d 1876." The document was found among the papers of L. H. Bishop, who was an early settler in St. James.

Governor Burnquist has turned over to the society a letter from Alan R. Hawley, president of the Aero Club of America, which came to him by way of the first aero post from New York to Washington. The envelope is stamped "Air Mail Service, Wash., N. Y., Phila. May 15, 1918. First Trip. New York."

Through the courtesy of Mr. J. W. Dunnet and Mr. Charles P. Noyes, the society has received from Mr. F. W. Fahrenlock of St. Paul, a number of English parchments dating from the early years of the nineteenth century. They are interesting examples of the legal documents in use at that period and present a curious contrast to similar documents of the present day.

Miss Eugenie F. McGrorty has presented a copy of the *Permanent Rules of the House of Representatives of the State of Minnesota* (St. Paul, 1857) used at the first session of the state legislature by her father, W. B. McGrorty, a representative from St. Paul, whose name is stamped on the cover. Miss McGrorty's gift is a valuable addition to the library, as the society has no other copy of this rare publication.

A file of the *Minutes of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States*, from 1889 to 1916, inclusive (27 v.) has been presented by the Reverend William L. Porter, stated clerk of the St. Paul Presbytery. This accession makes the society's file of this important publication complete from 1872 to 1916.

To Mr. and Mrs. Herbert C. Varney of St. Paul the society is indebted for an unusual collection of old newspapers and printed material. It includes a partial file of the *Whip and Spur*, published at Newport, Rhode Island, during the campaign of 1840; a caricature of Andrew Jackson; the first issue of the *Lowell Offering*, a literary magazine published in the forties by the women employed in the Lowell mills; two early catalogues of the People's Literary Institute and Gymnasium at Pembroke, New Hampshire; and other interesting papers and broadsides. The collection was found in the old Josiah Bartlett Wiggin place at Stratham, New Hampshire.

A file of the *Big Lake Wave*, beginning with the first number, which was issued June 24, 1910, and extending through July 31, 1914, has been received from Samuel L. Rank of Big Lake, the first publisher.

The society has recently come into possession of a portrait, executed in oils by Miss Grace E. McKinstry of Faribault, of Henry B. Whipple, bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Minnesota from 1859 to 1901. The fund which made possible its acquisition was raised by subscription among the Episcopal clergymen of the state and personal friends of the bishop through the efforts of the Reverend George C. Tanner of Seabury Divinity School, Faribault, and the late Reverend William C. Pope of St. Paul.

To the portrait collection has been added a large oil painting of Morton S. Wilkinson, the first practicing lawyer in Minnesota and United States senator from 1859 to 1865. The picture is the gift of his grandson, Morton S. Brewster of Wells.

Miss Mary O'Brien of St. Paul, through the courtesy of her brother, Judge Thomas D. O'Brien, has presented an excellent oil portrait of her father, Mr. Dillon O'Brien. Mr. O'Brien, who came to the Twin Cities in the early sixties, is best known for his efforts in behalf of the movement to bring Irish colonists to the United States. Also, as an author and lecturer, he did a great deal to further the cause of temperance in Minnesota.

An enlarged, framed photograph of Mrs. Angeline B. Hinckley has been received from her niece, Mrs. Claude C. Kyle of St. Paul. Mrs. Hinckley came to Minnesota in 1842 with her husband, Henry Jackson, who established the first general store in St. Paul, and served as the first justice of the peace, the first postmaster, and as a member of the first council of the town. In 1852 Mr. Jackson assisted in organizing the townsite company which founded Mankato, and in 1853 removed to that settlement, where he died in 1857. Later Mrs. Jackson married John S. Hinckley, who was also one of the first members of the townsite company.

Dr. Arthur M. Eastman of Minneapolis has presented a framed photograph of Mrs. Henry T. Welles. Mrs. Welles, whose husband was long prominent in the business and public affairs of Minneapolis and of Minnesota, came to St. Anthony in 1853.

A large framed portrait of Simeon P. Folsom, one of Basil Gervais, the first white child born in St. Paul, and a framed group of excellent photographs, taken in 1858, of members of the "Old Pioneer Guard" of St. Paul have been received from Mrs. James J. Hill. Mr. Hill was a member of the guard and his picture appears among the others.

Mr. Edward C. Gale of Minneapolis has presented through Mr. E. A. Bromley a photograph of George A. Pillsbury. Mr. Pillsbury, who came to Minneapolis in 1878, was a member of the well-known milling firm of Charles A. Pillsbury and Company, and was prominently identified with various financial, religious, and educational institutions of the city and state. He served two terms as mayor of Minneapolis, from April, 1884, to April, 1886.

A framed photograph of the late Charles Keith, a prominent lawyer of Princeton, has been presented to the society by his widow. At the same time Mrs. Keith donated to the museum collection an old flint-lock musket, which was one of her husband's most valued possessions. From data supplied by the donor and from inscriptions accompanying the weapon, it appears that it was one of five hundred similar arms made in Charleville Arsenal, France, and brought to this country by Lafayette during the Revolutionary War, another of the same shipment being preserved at Mt. Vernon. According to the signed statement of one Harriet Kester of Geauga County, Ohio, the musket was owned and used by her grandfather, John Kester, in the Revolutionary War. Mr. Keith, who purchased the weapon of Davis Brothers, Kent, Ohio, in January, 1910, has identified this John Kester with one whose name and record as a soldier in the continental army appear in *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War*, 9:143. The musket is in excellent

condition, with bayonet, ramrod, and flint in place, a charge alone being required to make it as formidable a weapon as ever.

A collection of forty-seven photographs, consisting principally of views of St. Paul, St. Anthony, and Minneapolis in the fifties and early sixties, has been presented by Miss Ella Richards of St. Paul. The photographs were the property of her father, Edward Richards, who was for many years city editor of the *Pioneer Press*. Their value for historical purposes is enhanced by keys to the location of important buildings.

Mr. A. A. Richardson, a Bemidji photographer who has taken great interest in the preservation of pictorial records of local war activities, has presented several excellent photographs taken by him at the first annual encampment of the Fourteenth Battalion, Minnesota Home Guards, held at "Camp Pershing," Park Rapids, from July 4 to 7. These include pictures of drills, reviews, the field hospital, and the staff. Such material is not only of great interest now but is certain in the course of time to become invaluable.

The society has received from Mr. Lewis H. Delano of St. Paul a picture of the "Anson Northup," the first steamboat to navigate the Red River of the North. This steamer, which was originally called the "North Star," was built in 1855 for use on the Mississippi above St. Anthony. In the fall of 1858 it was taken apart and transported overland from the Crow Wing to the Red River, rebuilt, and put into service for its first run to Fort Garry, May 17, 1859.

An attractive little landscape showing Fort Snelling and the valley of the Minnesota River is the gift of Mrs. George E. Ingersoll of St. Paul. The picture was painted by Mrs. Robert N. MacLaren, mother of Mrs. Ingersoll, sometime during the period 1864-65, when her husband, Colonel MacLaren, was in command of the Second Minnesota Volunteer Cavalry stationed at Fort Snelling.

A picture of the first ice palace erected in St. Paul has been presented by Mrs. William R. Weide of Madison, South Dakota. It was painted by John A. Weide in 1886.

An addition to the museum which is attracting considerable attention is an old electric automobile presented by Mr. J. George Smith. Although brought to St. Paul less than a score of years ago, in June, 1900, this car was the first electric and one of the first automobiles of any kind in the city. It resembles a buggy much more than it does any motor vehicle of the present day. An account of the car containing a number of interesting anecdotes and accompanied by a photograph appeared in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* of June 23.

From the Reverend Hugn L. Burleson, bishop of South Dakota, the society has received a fragment of the flag carried by the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry in the first battle of Bull Run. The fragment was secured by the donor's father, the Reverend Solomon S. Burleson, during his rectorate of All Saints' Parish, Northfield, from 1864 to 1870.

From Mrs. John D. Heaton of Annandale the society has received a rifle and powderhorn once the property of Frank Heaton, a pioneer of Middleville and Albion townships, Wright County.

NEWS AND COMMENT

Of the twenty-five papers read at the eleventh annual meeting of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association at St. Paul, May 9, 10, and 11, the following are of Minnesota interest or by Minnesota people: "Six Constitutions of the Far Northwest," by John D. Hicks of Hamline University; "Some Relations of the Upper Mississippi Valley with Lake Superior in the Civil War Period," by Lester B. Shippee of the University of Minnesota; "The Collapse of the Steamboat Traffic upon the Mississippi: An Inquiry into Causes," by Paul W. Brown of St. Louis; "An Undeveloped Phase of American History" (referring to agricultural history), by Herbert A. Kellar of Chicago; and "The Relation of the County Farm Bureau and the County Agent to the Collection of Local Historical Data Relating to Agriculture," by W. A. Lloyd of Washington. The annual address of the president, St. George L. Sioussat of Brown University, Providence, was on the subject, "Andrew Johnson and the Homestead Bill." At the luncheon on the last day of the meeting an inspiring patriotic address on the war and America's part in it was delivered by Thomas F. Moran of Purdue University. This feature of the program was furnished by the Committee on Public Information of the national government.

The Canadian government has recently established a Board of Historical Publications in connection with the Public Archives of Canada. The chairman of this board is to be a salaried official whose whole time will be devoted to the work of editing and supervising the publication of documents illustrative of the history of Canada in all its phases. The Dominion, with its archives department and building, was already far in advance of the United States in historical work; and that it should take another forward step at this time, when its resources are strained by the war, is evidence of an intelligent comprehension of the importance of history to the commonwealth.

The Loubat prizes for the two best works in the English language published during the last five years in the fields of

geography, archeology, ethnology, philology, numismatics, or history of North America before the Revolution have recently been awarded by Columbia University. Dr. Clarence W. Alvord of the University of Illinois received the first prize of a thousand dollars for his two-volume work entitled *The Mississippi Valley in British Politics*; and the second prize of four hundred dollars was awarded to Dr. Herbert I. Priestley of the University of California for his book entitled *José de Gálvez, Visitor-general of New Spain, 1765-1771*.

The National Board for Historical Service has announced the results of the prize essay contests conducted in various states for the best essays by public school teachers on the subject, "Why the United States Is at War." The section of the announcement concerning the contest in Minnesota, as printed in the *History Teacher's Magazine* for April is as follows:

"Contest in charge of Dr. Solon J. Buck, Superintendent, Minnesota Historical Society.

"Committees of Award—Group A: Prof. William S. Davis, University of Minnesota; John DeQuincy Briggs, St. Paul Academy; President Marion L. Burton, University of Minnesota. Group B: Prof. John D. Hicks, Hamline University, St. Paul; Chief Justice Calvin L. Brown, St. Paul; Prof. Willis M. West, Grand Rapids.

"Essays submitted, 29.

"Group A:

First Prize: R. D. Bowden, High School, Fairfax.

Second Prize: Ruth West, 303 Washington Avenue, S. E., Minneapolis (North High School).

Third Prize: Ralph L. Henry, Hastings (New Ulm High School).

Fourth Prize: Rose Susan Guinn, 111 East Superior Street, Duluth (Denfeld High School).

Fifth Prize: Clara E. Willard, High School, Cambridge.

"Group B:

First Prize: Anne Devany, 3707 Park Avenue, Minneapolis.

Second Prize: Frances E. Gardner, 1011 River Road, S. E., Minneapolis.

Third Prizes: Lillie Iverson, R. F. D. 1, Glyndon (District 82); Letitia King, Wendell; Della Tomlinson, Hutchinson; Isabel Hutchison, Alexandria; Walter J. Schwalje, Ulen."

For Group A, consisting of teachers in high schools, the prizes were seventy-five, thirty, twenty, fifteen, and ten dollars; for Group B, consisting of teachers in elementary schools, the first prize was seventy-five dollars, the second, twenty-five, and there were five third prizes of ten dollars each. The winning essays in each group have been entered in a national contest, the results of which have not yet been announced.

Patriotic and hereditary societies in search of appropriate activities which will have permanent and valuable results should know of the fellowships for research in California history established at the University of California by the Native Sons of the Golden West. The first fellow was appointed for the year 1911-12, and since then there have been two fellowships available each year. The amount of each is fifteen hundred dollars, a sum sufficiently large to enable the holder to work in Spain or wherever else the sources of California history may be found. The fellowships have resulted in the discovery and collection of valuable materials and in the publication of books and articles which are significant contributions to the history of the state. They have made possible, moreover, the training of a number of scholars, some of whom will doubtless continue their research work in this field. The plan of the fellowships and the achievements of the different fellows are set forth in an article by Charles E. Chapman in the April issue of the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*.

An editorial in the *American-Scandinavian Review* for May-June entitled "Conserving Historical Material" calls attention to the work of the Minnesota Historical Society in building up a Scandinavian-American collection and concludes with the statement: "The Society ought to have the coöperation of all who possess or know of any old documents that will add to our knowledge of Scandinavian history in America." A discussion of "Writers of Swedish Life in America," by Oliver A. Linder, in the same number of the *Review*, will be helpful to the historian

in search of information about social and economic conditions among these people.

The three articles in the July issue of the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* are all of more than local interest. "Frontier Defense in Iowa, 1850-1865," by Dan E. Clark, has to do principally with measures for the protection of the northwestern frontier against the Sioux Indians and deals with the Spirit Lake massacre and the effects in Iowa of the Sioux uprising of 1862. W. W. Gist, in "Ages of the Soldiers in the Civil War," points out that there is no foundation for the statistics of ages which have frequently appeared in the press, and by a study of available data relating to the soldiers of Minnesota and of typical regiments from other states, reaches the conclusion that there is no ground for the somewhat prevalent belief that the Civil War was fought and won by boys. Of the Minnesota soldiers, for example, he finds that over fifty per cent enlisted at twenty-five or older and eight per cent were forty or over when they entered the army. The third article is an interesting study of "The Influence of Wheat and Cotton on Anglo-American Relations during the Civil War," by Louis B. Schmidt.

The issue of *Iowa and War* for May consists of a sketch of "The Spirit Lake Massacre," by Dan E. Clark. This is based upon the manuscript of a book with the same title by Thomas Teakle, which is soon to be published by the State Historical Society of Iowa.

Norsk Amerikaneran is the title of an interesting quarterly magazine started in September, 1916, by Martin Ulvestad of Seattle, Washington. It is devoted chiefly to material on the immigration and early settlements of Norwegians in the United States.

Scott Burton, Forester (New York, 1917. 310 p.) is the title of a book by Edward G. Cheyney, in which he traces the college career of a young man who is taking a course in forestry. The book is of especial interest to Minnesotans because it deals with a profession in which this state offers unusual opportunities, and also because the scene is laid at the University of Minnesota and the university's camp at Lake Itasca.

The fourth volume (volume 2 of the *Text*) of Thomas Hughes's *History of the Society of Jesus in North America, Colonial and Federal* (London and New York, 1917. xxv, 734 p.) embraces the activities of this order from 1645 to 1773. The student of northwestern history will be especially interested in that part of the work devoted to the Jesuit missions in Canada, which were at a high point of development during this period, and which formed a starting point for missionary movements, exploratory in character, in every direction. The movement westward to Lake Superior and the Mississippi Valley is all too briefly handled in pages 252-259. The account of the Iroquois missions and of the efforts put forth by both Canada and the English colony of New York to gain the alliance and friendship of these tribes—a contest which vitally affected the history of the West—has nowhere else been so exhaustively and vividly treated (pp. 334-434). Copious annotations, revealing a vast amount of scholarship and research, add authoritativeness. The documentary material for the present text is included in the previously issued *Documents*, vol. 1, parts 1 and 2, of this same work.

Readers of "Captain Potter's Recollections of Minnesota Experiences" in the BULLETIN for November, 1916, will be interested to know of the existence of a book entitled *The Autobiography of Theodore Edgar Potter* (228 p). This was privately printed for the family under the supervision of Mr. George C. Sprague of New York in 1913 and was unknown to the editor of the BULLETIN until recently. The last five chapters are practically identical with the "Recollections," lacking, of course, the annotations. A copy of the book, presented by Mr. Sprague, is now in the library of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Under the title "1861-1917 War Calls Found Minnesota Ready; Nation Unprepared," the *Minneapolis Journal* of May 5 quotes at length from John D. Hicks's article on "The Organization of the Volunteer Army in 1861 with Special Reference to Minnesota," which appeared in the February issue of the BULLETIN.

The present year, 1918, marks the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the University of Minnesota. The elaborate plans which had been tentatively made to celebrate this anniversary in a fitting manner were abandoned on account of the war, and the occasion was marked only by a formal program at the Armory on the university campus on June 19 of commencement week. The addresses were given by the three former presidents of the institution, each of whom, in turn, reviewed the history of his own administration. The early growth of the university from 1868 to 1884 along the lines suggested by the broad and far-seeing wisdom of its first president was traced in a most entertaining and informing way by Dr. William W. Folwell. Cyrus Northrop, whose term of service covered twenty-seven years—the period of the university's most rapid development—continued the narrative, emphasizing especially what he believed to be his most important contribution, the "popularizing" of the university. Dr. George E. Vincent, president from 1911 to 1917, sketched very briefly the events of his administration; then, noting that "its semi-centennial . . . coincides with a turning point in the national life," he drew a vivid picture of the possibilities for service that are to be open to the university in the future. The three addresses are included in the June 24 issue of the *Minnesota Alumni Weekly*.

To commemorate the closing of the tenth year of the school, and also the sixtieth anniversary of the year of the admission of Minnesota as a state, West High School of Minneapolis gave a pageant, "The Advance of Liberty," as a part of its graduation exercises, on June 13. In the libretto, written by members of the English department, Liberty calls upon the school to show what it has done for the North Star State. Each department replies with a tableau illustrating its contribution. The early history of the state was outlined by groups of Indians, of *voyageurs* headed by Radisson, and of priests, led by Father Hennepin.

At the close of the school year the pupils of the Clara Barton School, Minneapolis, gave an historical pageant entitled "Onward March of Civilization," in which the characters of Daniel Boone, David Crockett, and other western explorers played a conspicuous part.

Fifty old settlers of Hennepin County, all members of the Hennepin County Territorial Pioneers' Association, gathered at the Godfrey House, Richard Chute Square, Minneapolis, June 1, to celebrate the sixty-ninth anniversary of the proclamation of Governor Alexander Ramsey inaugurating the government of Minnesota Territory. Other old settlers' associations which have held meetings during the past three months are: Minnesota Territorial Pioneers at the Old Capitol, St. Paul, May 11; Kandiyohi County Old Settlers' Association at Spicer, June 18; Old Settlers', Soldiers', and Sailors' Association of Fillmore County at Preston, June 19; Old Settlers' Association of Traverse County at Graceville, June 22; and Junior Pioneers' Association of St. Anthony at Columbia Heights, Minneapolis, June 29. The settlers of Warren, Marshall County, organized an association, June 23. On account of the war the annual meeting of the Stearns County Old Settlers' Association will not be held this year.

The Junior Pioneers' Association of St. Anthony Falls was formed May 3, 1918, with Dr. A. M. Eastman as president and M. P. Satterlee as secretary. Membership is open to "all those who lived in old St. Anthony from the time of its first organization into a town (and afterwards into the city of St. Anthony), up to the time it was taken into and became a part of the city of Minneapolis, which was on April 9th, 1872." The association held a basket picnic at Columbia Park, Minneapolis, on June 29.

In the May-June number of the *North Woods* (St. Paul), in an article entitled "What Forestry Has Done for the Chippewa Indians," General C. C. Andrews, secretary of the state forestry board, outlines the specific advantages which the Chippewa have enjoyed through "the application of forestry principles in the disposal of their pine timber" during the last fourteen years.

An account of Swedish emigration to the United States by Ernest A. Spongberg is running serially in the *Duluth Posten*, beginning in the issue of May 24. The installments so far published deal with the Northmen and the early settlements on the Delaware.

Milton O. Nelson traces the beginnings and development of Swedish Lutheranism in Minneapolis in the May 19 issue of the *Minneapolis Journal*. Of especial interest is his discussion of the work of the Augustana Lutheran Church under the direction of the Reverend C. J. Petri, who has been its pastor for thirty years.

In the section of "Old River Boats," in the June 8 issue of the *Saturday Evening Post* of Burlington, Iowa, there is printed a biography of Warren G. Wood, who helped to found and manage the "Diamond Joe" line.

The *St. Paul Dispatch* of May 20 devotes nearly an entire section to a description of the Mesaba iron range, including articles on the origin, development, and present condition of the range towns of Hibbing, Buhl, Mountain Iron, and Eveleth. The section is profusely illustrated with pictures of the iron mines and of public buildings in the towns.

"Fortunes Restored to Victims of Indian Land Scandal," is the title of an article in the *Minneapolis Journal* of May 5, which deals with the history of the distribution of the lands on the White Earth Indian reservation. Pictures of a number of Indians on the reservation accompany the article.

A description of the various ferries and bridges that have been used to connect the east and west banks of the Mississippi River at Minneapolis may be found in the June 13 issue of the *Minneapolis Journal*. This is printed in connection with a notice of the completion and dedication of the new Third Avenue bridge, a picture of which accompanies the articles.

The June 2 issue of the *Minneapolis Journal* contains an account of how an "Iowa Mill First Gave Minneapolis Flour" in the territorial days when the government mill at Fort Snelling was the only one in the region. A picture of the mill, which is located at Elkader, Iowa, accompanies the article.

The *Staples World* of June 13, in connection with its account of the dedication of the Staples Sacred Heart Catholic Church, reviews the history of that congregation from the time of its organization, in 1890, to the present.

Under the title "Historical Sketches" the *Slayton Gazette* in its issue of May 9 and 16 prints the history of the organizations of the various townships in Murray County and traces the origin of their names. The data for the article were furnished by Neil Currie, who was assisted by John H. Low, a pioneer of the county.

A short account of the beginnings of "Catholicity in Minneapolis" is contained in the April 27 issue of the *Northwestern Chronicle* (St. Paul).

